

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7, 9, and 17-23 have been allowed and remain in the application.

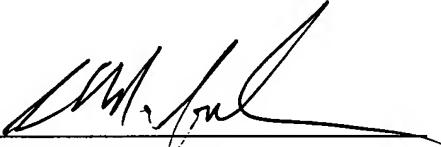
Previously allowed claims 24-27, however, have been cancelled.

If, for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the basis of this amendment and feels that a telephone conference would help clear up any unresolved matters, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

McDONNELL BOEHNEN  
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP

Dated: May 2, 2005

By: 

Sean Sullivan  
Reg. No. 40,191

McDONNELL BOEHNEN  
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP  
300 South Wacker Drive, Suite 3200  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
Telephone No. 312-913-0001  
Facsimile No. 312-913-0002

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff  
300 South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606  
312-913-0001